

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A distributed document handling system for carrying out jobs, where jobs are carried out by services distributed over a network and where a job leads to a product, the system comprising:

a pool of services, the services being distributed over a number of interconnected processing devices;

specifying means for entering by a user a job specification comprising product specifications specifying the product to be delivered by the job and specifications specifying circumstantial constraints without effect on the product, in considering selection from the pool of services;

determining means for determining a path of services, a path comprising at least two services, the services being selected from the pool of services, wherein the path is suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the product specifications, and wherein the determining means is operable to take into account circumstantial constraints for that job;

user interface means for presenting the paths suitable to carry out the job;

user interface means for, after the paths have been presented, enabling modification of the job specification by the user; and

means for, upon modification of the job specification, involving the determining means again for determining a path of services, based on the modified job specification.

2. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A distributed document handling system according to claim 1, for carrying out jobs, where jobs are carried out by services distributed over a network and where a job leads to a product, the system comprising:

a pool of services, the services being distributed over a number of interconnected processing devices;

specifying means for entering by a user a job specification comprising product specifications specifying the product to be delivered by the job and specifications specifying circumstantial constraints without effect on the product, in considering selection from the pool of services;

determining means for determining a path of services, a path comprising at least two services, the services being selected from the pool of services, wherein the path is suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the product specifications, and wherein the determining means is operable to take into account circumstantial constraints for that job;

user interface means for presenting the paths suitable to carry out the job;

user interface means for, after the paths have been presented, enabling modification of the job specification by the user; and

means for, upon modification of the job specification, involving the determining means again for determining a path of services, based on the modified job specification, and

wherein:

a circumstantial constraint defines a limit in an ordered range; the system also comprises:

means for ranking paths suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the ordered range of the circumstantial constraint; and

user interface means for selection by the user of a desired job specification from a ranked list of job specifications based on the ranked paths.

3. (Original) The distributed document handling system according to claim 2, wherein the system also comprises user interface means for selection by the user of the circumstantial constraint to be used in the ranking of the paths.

4. (Original) The distributed document handling system according to claim 2, wherein the circumstantial constraint is a total price of the job to be carried out; and

the system also comprises means for calculating the total price from price attributes of services included in a determined path.

5. (Previously Presented) The distributed document handling system according to claim 1, wherein the processing devices are connected to each other by a local area network or the Internet.

6. (Previously Presented) A distributed document handling system for carrying out jobs, where jobs are carried out by services distributed over a network and where a job leads to a product, the system comprising:

a pool of services, the services being distributed over a number of interconnected processing devices;

a specifying device, a user entering a job specification through the specifying device in considering selection from the pool of services, a job specification comprising product specifications specifying the product to be delivered by the job and specifications specifying circumstantial constraints without effect on the product;

a determining device that determines a path of services, a path comprising at least two services, the services being selected from the pool of services, wherein the path is suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the product specifications, and wherein the determining means is operable to take into account circumstantial constraints for that job;

a user interface that presents the paths suitable to carry out the job;

a user interface that, after the paths have been presented, enables modification of the job specification by the user; and

a device that, upon modification of the job specification, involves the determining device again to determine a path of services, based on the modified job specification.

7. (Previously Presented) ~~[[The]]~~ A distributed document handling system according to claim 6; for carrying out jobs, where jobs are carried out by services distributed over a network and where a job leads to a product, the system comprising:

a pool of services, the services being distributed over a number of interconnected processing devices;

a specifying device, a user entering a job specification through the specifying device in considering selection from the pool of services, a job specification comprising product specifications specifying the product to be delivered by the job and specifications specifying circumstantial constraints without effect on the product;

a determining device that determines a path of services, a path comprising at least two services, the services being selected from the pool of services, wherein the path is suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the product specifications, and wherein the determining means is operable to take into account circumstantial constraints for that job;

a user interface that presents the paths suitable to carry out the job;

a user interface that, after the paths have been presented, enables modification of the job specification by the user; and

a device that, upon modification of the job specification, involves the determining device again to determine a path of services, based on the modified job specification, and

wherein:

a circumstantial constraint defines a limit in an ordered range; the system also comprises:

a device that ranks paths suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the ordered range of the circumstantial constraint; and

a user interface through which the user selects a desired job specification from a ranked list of job specifications based on the ranked paths.

8. (Previously Presented) The distributed document handling system according to claim 7, wherein the system also comprises a user interface through which the user selects the circumstantial constraint to be used in the ranking of the paths.

9. (Previously Presented) The distributed document handling system according to claim 7, wherein the circumstantial constraint is a total price of the job to be carried out; and

the system also comprises a calculating device that calculates the total price from price attributes of services included in a determined path.

10. (Previously Presented) The distributed document handling system according to claim 1, wherein the processing devices are connected to each other by a local area network or the Internet.

11. (New) The distributed document handling system according to claim 1, wherein the determining means determines at which moment in the processing of a job a service is next.

12. (New) The distributed document handling system according to claim 6, wherein the determining device determines at which moment in the processing of a job a service is next.

13. (New) The distributed document handling system according to claim 1, wherein the path of services is a set of services that are involved in realizing a requested job according to product specifications.

14. (New) The distributed document handling system according to claim 6, wherein the path of services is a set of services that are involved in realizing a requested job according to product specifications.